5 July 2013 - Today's fine weather across many parts of the UK heralds the start of a prolonged period of very warm weather which could last until the middle part of July.

It is likely to be the longest spell of warm and settled UK summer weather since July 2006, where temperatures were above 28 °C in many areas for a fortnight.

This weekend will see a good deal of sunshine across England and Wales, with maximum temperatures likely to be in the mid to high 20s. Some isolated spots in southern England could reach 30 °C on Sunday.

Northern Ireland and north-western parts of Scotland will see more in the way of cloud, with light rain possible at times and temperatures in the high teens to early 20s.

As we start next week, fine conditions are expected to continue in many places - with temperatures remaining well above average.

Nick Grahame, Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "We have high pressure over the UK at the moment which normally brings us fine and settled weather at this time of year.

"The current outlook suggests this may be dominating our weather through next week and possibly out towards the middle of July."

You can stay up to date with the the latest forecast on our website and you can discover tips and information on how to make the most of the summer months, whatever the weather, with our Get Ready for the Great British Summer pages.

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

Last updated: 5 July 2013